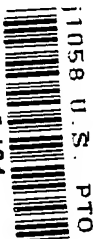


12/20/01



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW  
INCLUDING  
PATENTS, TRADEMARKS,  
COPYRIGHTS AND  
UNFAIR COMPETITION

12-28-01

## CONLEY, ROSE & TAYON

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
THE CHASE BUILDING  
700 LAVACA, SUITE 800  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3102  
(512) 476-1400  
FACSIMILE (512) 703-1250  
www.intprop.com

HOUSTON OFFICE  
CHASE TOWER  
600 TRAVIS, SUITE 1800  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-2912  
(713) 238-8000  
FACSIMILE (713) 238-8008

A

ERIC B. MEYERTONS  
(512) 703-1254  
emeyertons@intprop.com

FILE: 5682-00300

December 20, 2001

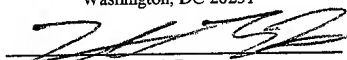


### CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL893865065US  
DATE OF DEPOSIT: December 20, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the  
United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to  
Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated  
above and is addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, DC 20231

  
Derrick Brown

### ATTN: PATENT APPLICATIONS

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application Entitled "SEPARATOR FOR FUEL CELL AND  
MANUFACTURE METHOD FOR THE SAME" -- Ottawa, et al.

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing are:

1. A disclosure including a title page, a 16-page specification, 1 page of claims (Claims 1-3), one page abstract and 2 pages of formal drawings (Fig. 1-3). This disclosure constitutes the application of Kazuhiko Ottawa, Shoji Kato, and Katsunori Sugita for the above-entitled invention;
2. Official copy of Japanese Patent Application 2000-391,422 (23 pages);
3. A Preliminary Amendment (5 pages) including substitute sheets of the specification and abstract (18 pages) and strikethrough sheets of the specification and abstract (20 pages); and

Commissioner for Patents  
December 20, 2001  
Page 2

4. A return postcard.

Applicant hereby claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-391422 filed on December 22, 2000.

Please note that this application is filed without an inventors' Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to the undersigned representative of Applicant.

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to:

Eric B. Meyertons  
CONLEY, ROSE & TAYON, P.C.  
P.O. BOX 398  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767-0398  
(512) 703-1254 (voice)  
(512) 703-1250 (facsimile)

Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark R. DeLuca  
Reg. No. 44,649

EBM:gms  
Enclosures